

Promising Practices for Goal Four: Teacher Education and Professional Development
The Nation's teaching force will have access to programs for the continued improvement of their professional skills and the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to instruct and prepare all American students for the next century.

For Goal Four, the National Education Goals Panel focused on the percentage of public school teachers that had participated in in-service or professional development programs since the end of the previous school year.

Kentucky: 98 percent of its public school teachers reported that they participated in some form of professional development in 1994.

- The 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act required the state board of education to establish and maintain a program of professional development. It also requires that all teachers participate annually in professional development.
- The state recently created the Kentucky Leadership Academy to provide professional development for principals.

California: 94 percent of its teachers reported that they participated in professional development programs in 1994.

- Since 1983, the state has required that teachers have 150 hours of professional growth activity every five years.
- Providers of professional development must be certified by the state.
- Professional development must be aligned with state standards for teachers.
- The state has created the California School Leadership Academy, which provides professional development for principals, district superintendents and school teams.

Connecticut: 92 percent of its teachers reported that they participated in professional development in 1994.

- The state's 1987 Education Enhancement Act provides funds for professional development.
- Professional development opportunities are often tied to student achievement scores. If a local school district or school notices that student achievement scores are low in a certain area, educators may then develop professional development initiatives that focus on that subject.
- The state has created an advanced academy for teachers. This academy is part of a program that certifies highly accomplished math and science teachers.

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